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31 MAY 1962

~~31 JUN 1962~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with State Department Representatives on Amendments to Section 305 of the Communications Act Regarding Reciprocity in Establishment of Low Powered Radio Transmitters

25X1 1. On Tuesday, 29 May 1962, Messrs. Warner, [] met with State Department representatives to discuss State's plans concerning two bills (H.R. 11732 and S. 3252) to amend section 305 of the Communications Act to provide reciprocity with foreign countries in the establishment of low powered radio transmitters. Present from the State Department were Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Operations, Mr. Henry H. Ford and Mr. John Leahy, from the office of the Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations.

2. Mr. Leahy advised the group that he had talked with Carl Marcy, Chief of Staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Mr. Kurt Borchardt, Legal Counsel of House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, concerning the two bills pending before their Committees. He advised these individuals that there was 'a CIA interest in this legislation.' Mr. Marcy indicated to Leahy that there is a good possibility that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee might schedule hearings on the Senate bill in the near future. Mr. Borchardt advised Leahy that the House Committee's calendar was quite full and he suggested that State and CIA representatives discuss this legislation with the Chairman, Representative Oren Harris.

3. Mr. Warner reiterated this Agency's position on this legislation; we support these bills but probably could not testify before either of the Committees nor would we want open debate to result in disclosures harmful to the Agency. Mr. Leahy said he understood our position in this respect

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and suggested that an Agency representative accompany State's people in preliminary discussions with both Marcy and Chairman Harris. Mr. Warner agreed to this but suggested that representatives from the Department of Defense also be present. Mr. Ford thought that this was a good idea and agreed to contact Mr. Norman Paul and General Kurtz in Defense. Mr. Forde said he had been assured by National Security Agency that they would provide the Department with a letter indicating NSA support of these bills.

4. The group discussed tactics in the handling of this legislation and Mr. Warner pointed out that it would be necessary for us to discuss our role in this legislation with our CIA Subcommittees of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. It was agreed by all present that it was preferable if the hearings would be held in executive session but all recognized that both Committees would probably want to have at least a portion of the hearings in open session. Mr. Ford said he would probably be one of the State witnesses at the hearings along with some well-known official of the Department. Mr. Ford added that he had been assured by the top three U.S. communications firms that they would not oppose this legislation. They are the Radio Corporation of America, the American Cable and Radio Corporation and MacKay.

5. It was agreed that between now and next week, Mr. Leahy would set dates for the meetings with Marcy and Borchardt while Mr. Ford made arrangements for Defense representatives to be present and the Agency discussed this legislation with its subcommittees.



Assistant Legislative Counsel

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